of Brahmaputra valley exploration project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The estimated reserves of crude oil and natural gas in North-East region is as under:—

State	Oil (Million Metric Tonnes)	Natural Gas (Billion Cubic Metre)
Assam	143.56	116.228
Arunachal Pradesh	5.88	4.136
Nagaland	2.29	0.63
Tripura	—	16.93

The exploration targets by ONGC for the North Eastern Region during IX Plan period is of the order of 3515 Ground Line Kilometre of 2D seismic data acquisition, 3755 Ground Line kilometre of 3D seismic data acquisition and drilling of 152 exploratory wells.

The targets for exploratory work by Oil India Limited in the North East during 1999-2000 are as under:—

Survey

2D 1500 Standard Line Kilometre.
3D 300 Square Line Kilometre.
2D 1500 Ground Line Kilometre.

Exploratory drilling

57,000 Metre.

The accretion to hydrocarbons reserves is an on-going process. Every year there is addition to in-place reserves and recoverable reserves of hydrocarbons with the on-going exploratory efforts. Therefore, it is difficult to estimate the projected time for drying up of recoverable reserves.

(b) The first phase of six wells exploratory programme was scheduled to commence from February, 1996 through a charterhired rig. However, due to the delay in mobilisation of the rig by the contractor the actual drilling could commence only in June, 1997. So far three wells have been drilled and no hydrocarbon discovery has been made. The fourth well is in progress and the drilling is likely to be over by end-April/ mid-may, 1999.

Partnership based LPG Agencies

2745. SHRI RAMJI LAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of partnership based LPG Agencies allowed to bifurcate on compassionate grounds during the last three years;

(b) the names and addresses of the LPG Agencies which have applied for bifurcation on compassionate grounds so far; and

(c) the present status of these cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Oil Companies have reprotedly allowed bifurcation of one LPG distributorship during the last three years.

(b) and (c) Government have received requests for bifurcation from the following five LPG distributorship;

1. M/S Graduate Gas Service, Amritsar.
2. M/S Gilson Enterprises, Ludhiana.
3. M/S Aggarwal Gas Service, Jalandhar City.
4. M/S Biswan Gas Service, Biswan, UP.
5. M/S Anand Gas Agency, Mokama, Bihar.

As per the existing policy, bifurcation of LPG disbutorships awarded under DGR category only is allowed. As bifurcation amounts to sanctioning a new additional agency, the Government has not approved of this as a policy.